

Stories *from the* Lakeland

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WRITE BREAK LITERACY PROJECT

THE WRITE BREAK
Adult Tutoring Project of the
Counties of Warner & Forty Mile
Further Education Councils



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*Stories from the Lakeland
Compiled by
Heather Demchuk*

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*Edited by
Sue Diening &
Colleen Hanley*

*Compiled by
Heather Demchuk*

Calligraphy by Marilyn Pottage

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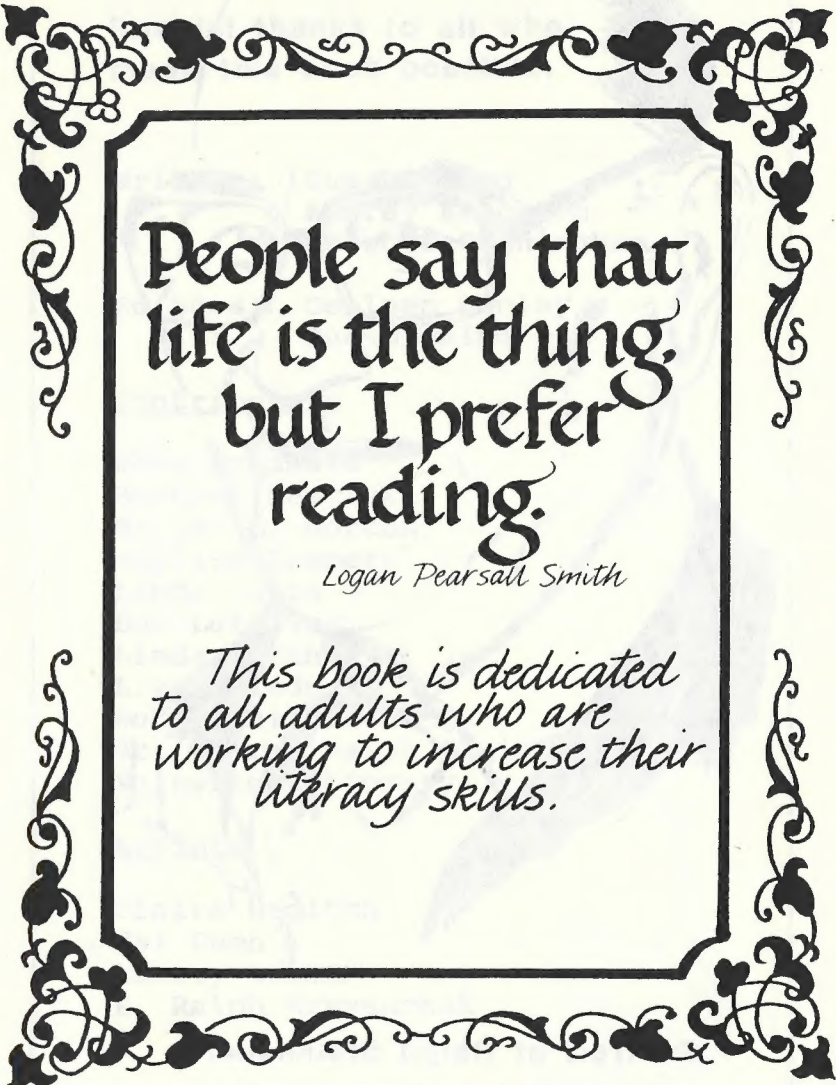
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Special Projects Coordinator
Lakeland College/Tri-Town
Campus
Box 1469
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T0A 0V0
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People say that
life is the thing
but I prefer
reading.

Logan Pearsall Smith

*This book is dedicated
to all adults who are
working to increase their
literacy skills.*



**Portrait of Ralph Steinhauer
by E. Ralph Kryvenchuk**

**Special thanks to all who
made this book possible.**

Writers: Sue Dienes
Audrey Erickson
Melanie Cunningham

Editors: Colleen Hanley
Sue Dienes

Contributors

Rose Brassard
Heather Demchuk
Mr. W. L. Horton
Marilyn Lambert
Linda Layte
Ben Lefebvre
Linda Peckham
Liz Rutledge
Ruth Schiltroth
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Steinhauer
Wainwright Library

Artists

Claire Deditch
Val Dunn
Audrey Herman
E. Ralph Kryvenchuk

Lakeland College

Regional Map

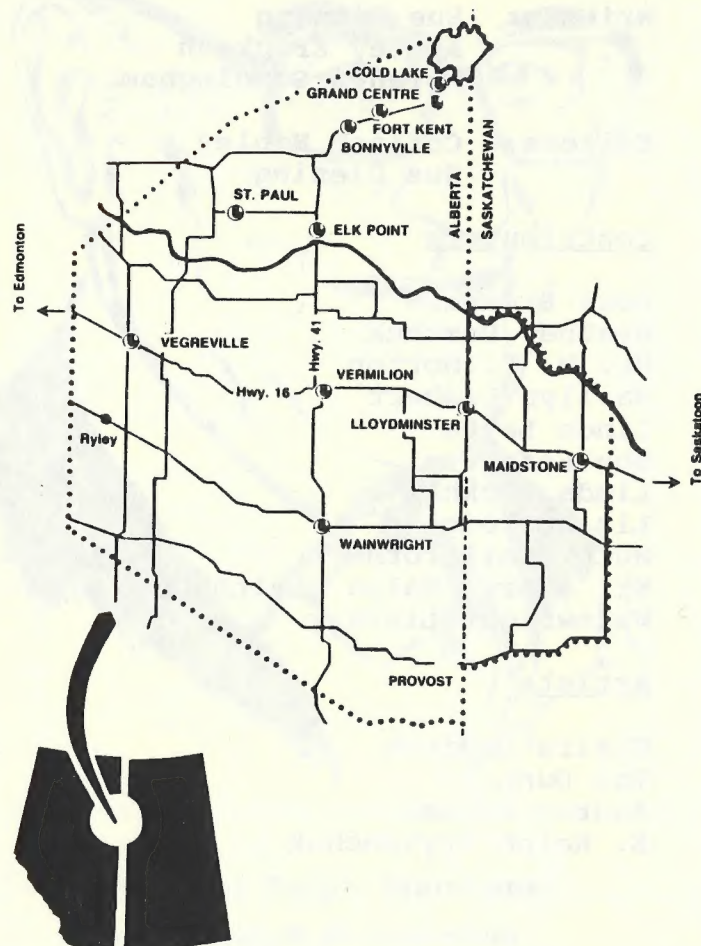


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BONNYVILLE

LIFE IN

THE EARLY DAYS

At the turn of the century, many natives lived in the Bonnyville area. Men and women both had important jobs.

The man was the hunter, trapper and fisherman. His catch was good for the family. He hunted animals like moose, deer, caribou, elk and bear. He fished for whitefish. Trapping gave him furs to trade. He travelled his trapline, often away many days at a time. The pelts of the otter, marten, mink, wolf, beaver and coyote were traded for flour and cloth.

There were a lot of muskrat then. Each pelt was taken to the Hudson Bay store at Onion Lake to trade. It was an 80 km trip, one way. Sometimes furs went to travelling buyers. Some were sold by auction.

The woman was the cook, seamstress and nurse. She made pemmican by mixing the powder from pounded, dried meat with melted fat. Canned fruit and meat, berries and pemmican made food for the long winters. As seamstress the woman dyed flour sacks. She made clothes from them.

She also did beadwork. This was a great contrast to the texture of the clothes.

Nursing required home remedies. Using ingenuity, she made lots of different medicines.

Life was tiring but rewarding and happy.



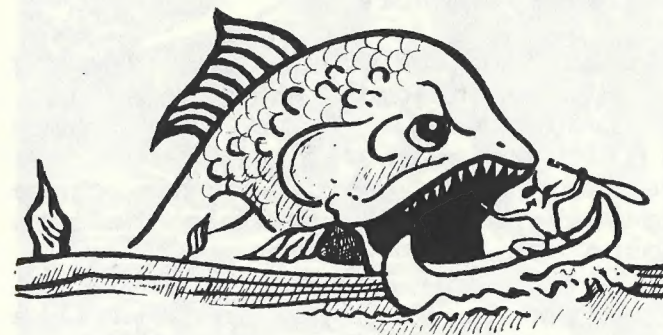
Some home remedies and cures are:

1. Wild sage, steeped as tea, is a drink good for kids' bellyaches.
2. Raspberry roots have been found to be good when boiled and taken as a tonic.
3. A split onion left in the sick room is supposed to collect the germs.
4. "Bear grease rubbed on joints is good for arthritis."
5. Cures for sore throats and colds are:
 - a. warm milk with melted butter (the size of a marble) - drunk before you go to bed
 - b. chicken soup
 - c. coal oil and sugar
 - d. hot salt water gargle



LEGENDS OF KINOSOO

Kinosoo lives in Cold Lake, Alberta. The lake is huge, about 230 sq. km. And it is very deep.



The natives believe Kinosoo is a huge fish. They think it comes to the surface to see the sky. People may be able to spot Kinosoo from Mystery Point.

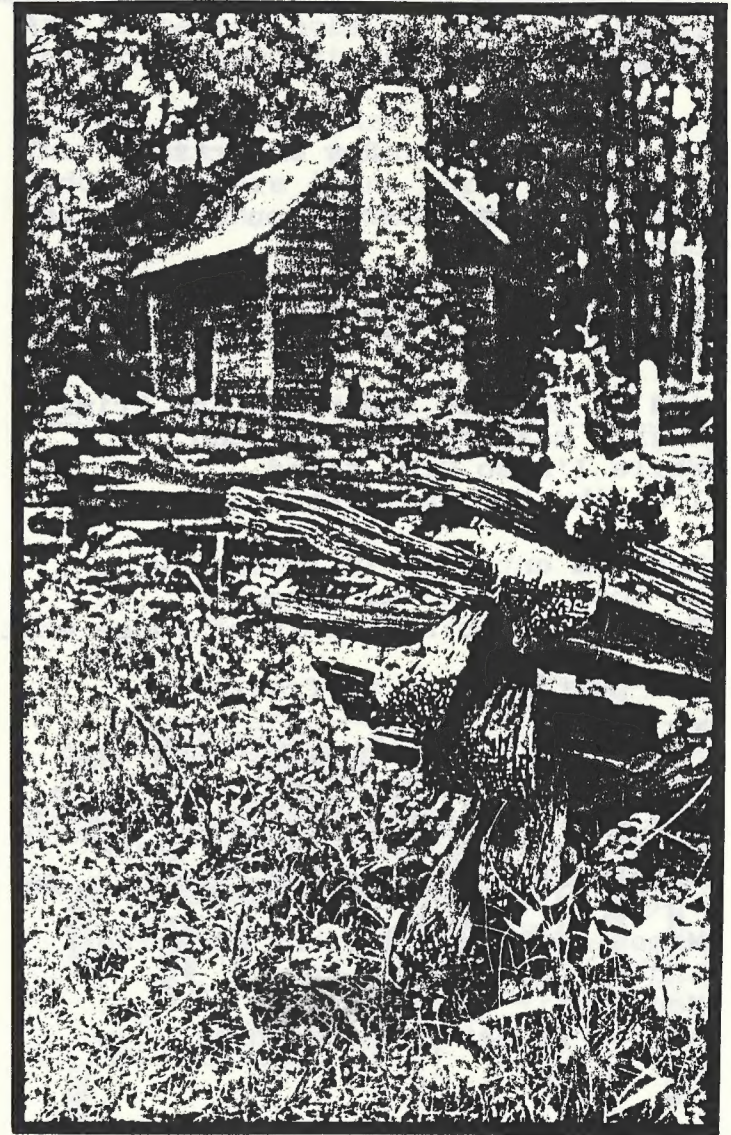
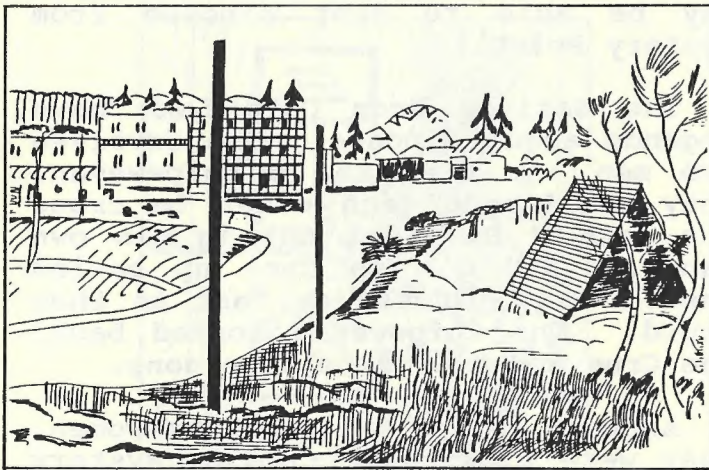
The Natives from Cold Lake have legends about Kinosoo. One involves two men - a Cree and a Chipewyan. They challenged each other to cross the lake. Each set out in his own canoe. A big fish came up behind them. They paddled as fast as they could. The Chipewyan looked back. The Cree and his canoe were gone.

Another legend tells of two women. They were picking berries at Mystery

Point. The dogs with them spotted an elk. They chased it to the lake. The women followed. But the elk was gone and the dogs barked at the lake. Later, huge bones washed ashore. They looked like back bones of a great fish and the remains of an elk. People think Kinosoo ate the elk whole. An antler poked a hole in the fish. It died and the bones of both animals came ashore.

A third legend talks about a young man. He planned to marry a maiden. She lived across the lake. The young man left to go to visit her. But he never arrived. Parts of his canoe came ashore. The people believe Kinosoo got him.

The people who live in Cold Lake now talk about Kinosoo. They have a summer festival honoring the legend. The huge fish is on the town crest.



THE LAMENT OF THE MOOSE HUNTER'S WIFE

by: Mrs. Roy Robertson

There's moose carcass on the cutting
board
Moose chunks on the table,
I view it all with great alarm
I must wrap it if I'm able.

And as he cuts and bones and trims,
A grin near splits his head,
While I'm so G.D. tired
I'd like to crawl into my bed.

But I'm entwined in freezer wrap
In gook near to my knees
For I'm wrapping chunks of moose meat

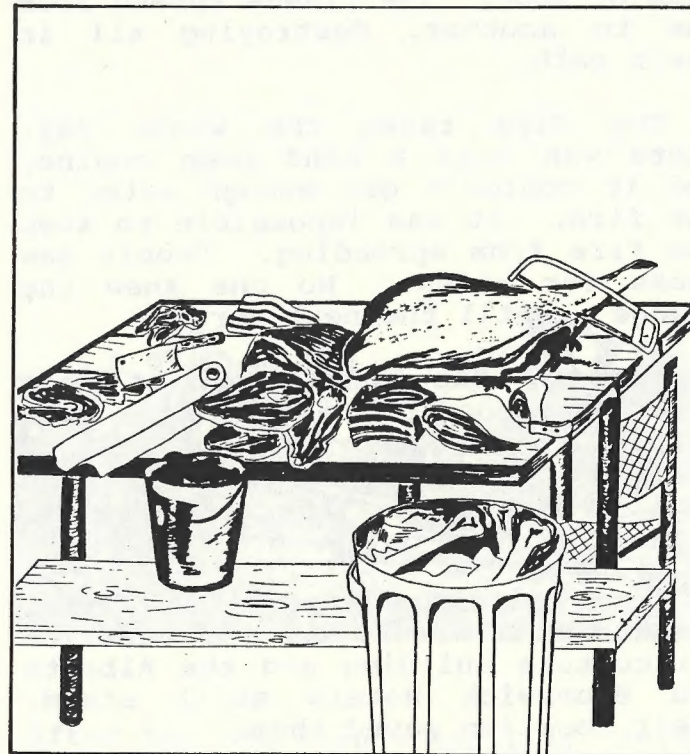
And putting them to freeze.

And there's moose hair in the bath
tub
And in the kitchen sink
Moose hair in the drinking glass
Whenever I want a drink.

Moose hair on the front room rug
And in the bedding too
Moose hair in the butter
And we're eating moose hair stew.

There's bloody gook in the garbage
pail
Chunks of fat stored by the door
And blobs and gobs of both of them
Spread on the kitchen floor.

And still I wrap and wrap and wrap,
The roasts, the steaks, the stew,
Suddenly there is no more,
Yes, by gosh, I'm through.



VERMILION ON FIRE

The date is April 11, 1918. It's a sunny day. The town of Vermilion is quiet. A strong south-westerly wind is blowing. A fire had started.

Doug Cooper was six then. His family owned the local newspaper. He recalls the fire starting in a small garage owned by Joe McKane. Oil rags caught fire in the garage.

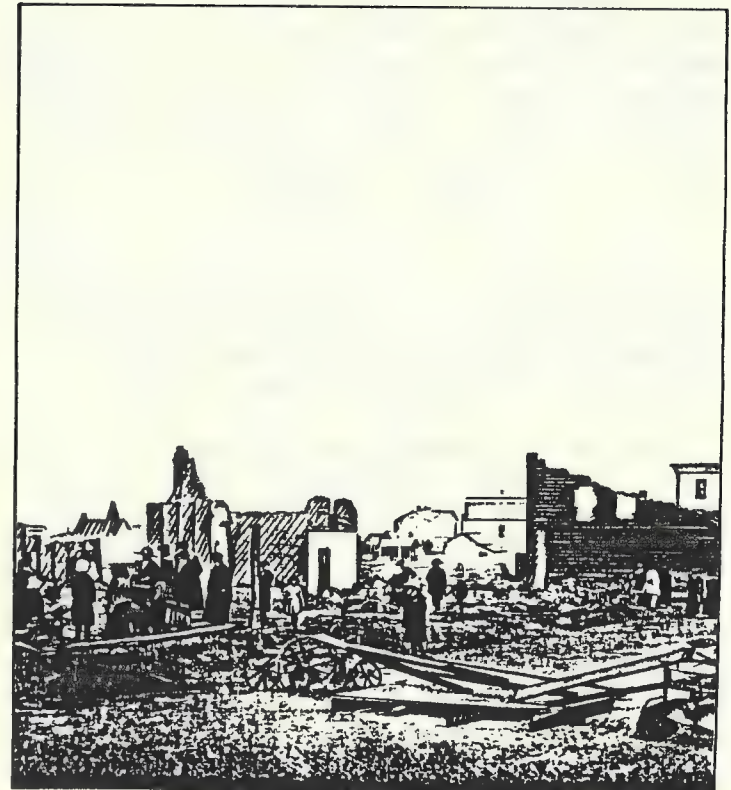
Most buildings in Vermilion were made of wood. The flames spread from one to another, destroying all in their path.

The fire raged the whole day. There was only a hand pump engine, and it couldn't get enough water to the fire. It was impossible to keep the fire from spreading. People saw smoke for miles. No one knew the damage - until the next morning.

Most of the south side of main street was gone. But two stores were rebuilt. Long's Drug Store and Craig's Department Store were soon back in business. In fact, Craig's opened the next day - in a tent.

Some buildings escaped the fire. Harle's Mens' Wear, the old District Agriculture Building and the Alberta and Brunswick Hotels still stand. Their location saved them.

The people of Vermilion were lucky. No one was seriously injured. And the CN Railway was at their doorstep. It helped get supplies to the town quickly.



After the Big Fire - April 11, 1918

LLOYDMINSTER

- BEGINNINGS

The story began in 1902. Two men, Rev. Barr and Rev. Lloyd planned to take settlers to Canada. The men had lived in Canada before.

Liverpool, England was the meeting place for the settlers. They came there from all parts of the British Isles. On March 31, 1903, they boarded the S.S. Lake Manitoba. Almost 2700 people sailed for 12 days to St. John, New Brunswick.

But they were not home. The settlers got on a train. Their destination was Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Finally on April 17, 1903, the settlers arrived.

But still they were not home. The site of their settlement was 322 km north and west. They were unhappy with Rev. Barr, so they asked Rev. Lloyd to lead.

Some bought covered wagons and supplies for the journey. Others bought cows to supply food. Many walked from Saskatoon to their new home.

At first, they lived in their wagons. Those without wagons had to build shacks.

Supplies got to them in two ways. Some came from Edmonton by boat on the North Saskatchewan River. Others came by wagons from Saskatoon and Battleford. Two years later the railway arrived, and with it came more settlers.

The settlers named their home after Rev. Lloyd. They combined Lloyd and minister to form the name of the town.



WHICH PROVINCE?

Lloydminster was a village in the Northwest Territories in 1903.

By 1904, Lloydminster had 100 homes. The town had a Mounted Police post, post office and church. There were other services too - two stores, restaurants, blacksmiths and two butchers. The telegraph station was an important link to the east.

Alberta and Saskatchewan became provinces in 1905. But the border ran through the middle of the new town. So, Lloydminster became a village in Alberta in 1906 and a town in Saskatchewan in 1907.

The towns became one again in 1930. They had the permission of both provinces. In 1958 Lloydminster became a city. The charter came from Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Today Lloydminster is home to 16,000 people. It's Canada's only border city!



**Saskatchewan
Coat of Arms**



Alberta Coat of Arms

VEGREVILLE

A TOWN ON THE MOVE

Old Vegreville

The old site was by a creek. The Natives called it Wah-ski-wa. The pioneers named it Birch Creek. History books say it was beautiful. Gently rolling hills and rich soil attracted the farmers.



The first settlers came in 1894. Others followed. By 1905, Vegreville was booming. Farming families and good business people made it a growing town.

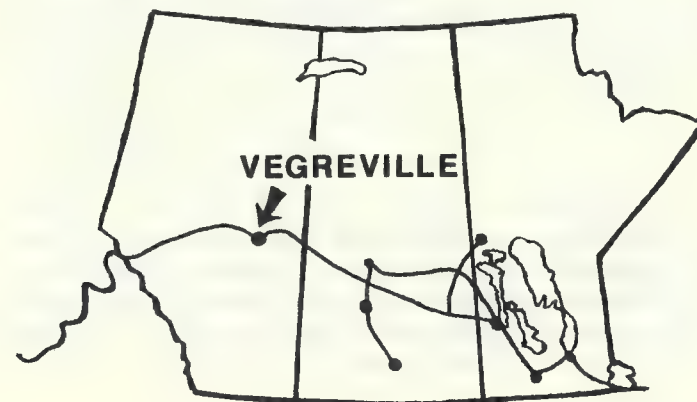
The Move

In 1905, the railway arrived. It meant important links to the East. Closeness to the railway would mean growth for the businesses and farms. But there was one problem. The railroad wasn't coming through town. It would pass 7 km northeast, so the town had to move.

Many business people were smart. They had thought the town might move, so they constructed buildings that would be easy to take apart and rebuild.

People and animals moved buildings using wheels or skids. Some were taken apart and then put together again - in the 'New Vegreville'. The town's people moved a livery barn, blacksmith and machine shops. The doctor's office, post office, stores, hotel and jail moved too. Even the police barracks had a new home.

So did the banks!



The Race

Old Vegreville had two banks - the Merchant's Bank and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. When it came time to move, the employees planned a race. Each bank wanted to be the first bank to set up at the new site.



The banks went up on skids. The race began. They sailed across 7 km of prairie. It was close, but the Merchant's Bank won by five minutes. The bank race was a highlight of the move to the new site.

MONIYANHKANIS RESPECTED BY NATIVE AND WHITE MAN ALIKE

Moniyanhkanis is a Cree word. It means "like a white man" or "a little bit white man". It is the Cree name of Ralph Steinhauer.

He was born in 1905 in Northern Alberta to Joseph and Amelia Apow. His father, a Cree, was a blacksmith. He died when Mr. Steinhauer was two. His mother was a teacher. As a child Ralph went away to school.

The first school he went to was in Red Deer. When he was there, his mother moved to Saddle Lake to teach. She met James Steinhauer and married him. He adopted Ralph and his three sisters. So his name changed from Apow to Steinhauer.

Ralph finished school at 18. He got a job as a clerk in the general store in Vilna. Part of his job was sorting mail. Then he met Isabel at a community dance. It was love at first sight.

Ralph said, "Mail came in twice a week, then and Isabel came in twice a day for hers. I sorted for half an hour. We chatted." Ralph and Isabel Steinhauer later married.

Ralph wasn't afraid to talk to people - neither native people nor the agent. Some people wanted to know about interest payments. They were afraid to ask the agent, so Ralph asked for them.

A few years later Ralph was at a band meeting. He talked to the government official just like anyone else. Some people said he shouldn't. Ralph said, "He's looking after our affairs. We have a right to question him." The government agent agreed with Ralph.

Ralph was at the next band meeting. He was nominated to be a council member. This was very unusual. Ralph was very young, only 26. Most council members were in their 60's. Ralph won. He was on the council for 37 years. For three years he was chief. In 1969 he resigned.

But he didn't retire. He went across Canada with the Centennial Conference. He helped the Indian Association of Alberta with programs. He served on the board of Alberta NewStart, which got AVC Lac La Biche started. He was on the Northern Alberta Development Council (N.A.D.C.).

That's when he got the phone call. He was in Two Hills getting his truck fixed. Someone from Ottawa phoned his home. Isabel gave him the phone number at the garage. It was Prime Minister Trudeau.

He asked Ralph if he would be willing to be Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. He had two weeks to make up his mind. He would represent the Queen in Alberta.

Isabel came to Two Hills to pick up Ralph. She guessed who called, and why. Ralph made a phone call ten days later. He said yes.

A month later, Prime Minister Trudeau called again. This time Ralph was at a N.A.D.C. meeting. Ralph said, "I hope to hell you know what you're doing. Taking a fellow out of the barnyard and putting him into something like this. I know nothing about it."

Mr. Trudeau replied, "Oh, you'll do all right. You'll do all right."

Ralph Steinhauer became Lieutenant-Governor. He wore his Indian dress to open the Alberta Legislature in 1977. Premier Lougheed said it was to remind us of the signing of Treaty #7. He held the post for five years.

Ralph and Isabel Steinhauer live in Saddle Lake, Alberta.

WAINWRIGHT BUFFALO TALES

Wainwright played an important role in saving the buffalo from extinction.

The story begins in 1873 in Montana. Walking Coyote lived on the Flathead Reservation. He hunted buffalo. Four buffalo calves followed him home. Walking Coyote raised the four calves. He soon had a herd of buffalo.

In 1906 Canada wanted to start a buffalo park. They bought 700 buffalo. These buffalo came from the herd Walking Coyote had started.

A park was set up for them in Wainwright. The animals were shipped by rail. The trip was 1200 miles. Imagine a train filled with buffalo. Each animal weighed about 2000 pounds. That's one and a half million pounds of buffalo.

The animals roamed free in the park. It was huge - 234 square miles. The herd grew rapidly. When it got too big the herd was rounded up. Some animals went to other parks. Some were killed for their meat. The hides made warm coats and robes.

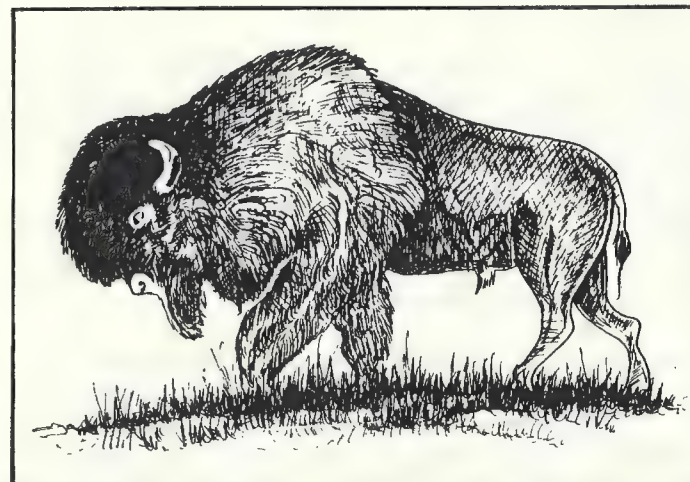
Rounding up the buffalo was a big job. Buffalo can run faster and farther than horses. They are also stubborn. They don't like to be

herded into corrals.

To make matters worse, the best time to round up buffalo for slaughter is winter. The hides are thickest then. Horses and riders had to battle snow and severe cold. In 1940, the park was emptied. Some buffalo went to other parks. The rest were killed.

The Wainwright Buffalo Park became a military base. It was named Camp Denwood. Now it's CFB Wainwright.

Forty-one years later, on June 10, the buffalo came back. Four calves from the herd at Elk Island Park came to the base. Once again, buffalo roam at Wainwright.



THE WAINWRIGHT HOTEL

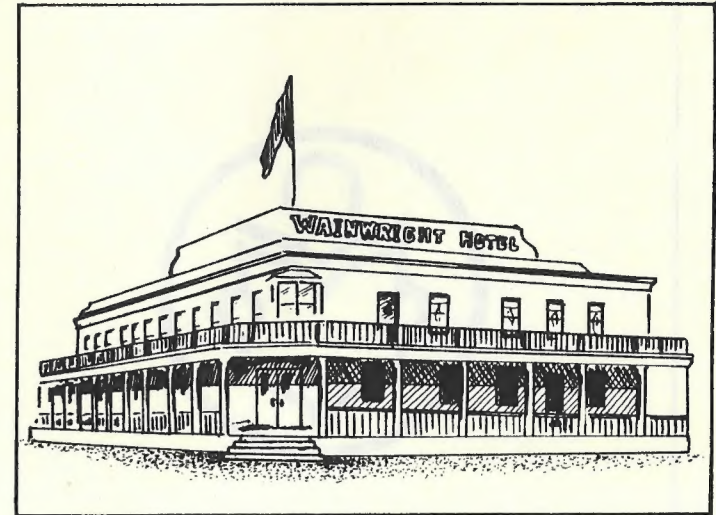
The people of Wainwright are a proud people. The Wainwright Hotel is special to them. The strange thing about this hotel is its location. You can visit it in Heritage Park in Calgary!

The hotel was built in 1907 in Denwood. Martin Forster was the owner. He thought Denwood was a good place for a town. It was on high ground. But the railway didn't agree. It decided the town should be 2 miles south.

You can guess what happened. All the new buildings had to move. Even the hotel was put on skids. Horses pulled it to the new town. A new addition and the moving took three months.

The hotel, now in Wainwright, was very popular. Mr. and Mrs. Forster made the hotel a pleasant place for travellers. They called it a home away from home. Visitors left their horses at the livery stable near the hotel. The hotel was up-to-date in every sense of the word.

One story about the hotel still gets a chuckle. It happened to the first customer. He asked Mr. Forster how much the room would cost. The hotel owner didn't know what to charge.



FIRE! 1929 brought disaster to the town.

In July, a huge fire wiped out most of the business section. The Wainwright Hotel was gone. Only a heap of ashes and rubble remained.

But - not for long!

Calgary Heritage Park has a replica. You can visit it. Enjoy a cup of tea or a fine meal in the dining room. Tour the rooms. Now people can imagine life in Wainwright in the early 1900's.

THE WAINWRIGHT HOTEL

The people of Wainwright are a proud people. The Wainwright Hotel is special to them. The citizens think about this hotel as the location. For now, it is in the heart of the town in Calgary.



The hotel is a fine example of the architecture of the early 20th century. It has many rooms and a large dining hall. The hotel is a landmark in the town and is a source of pride for the people of Wainwright.

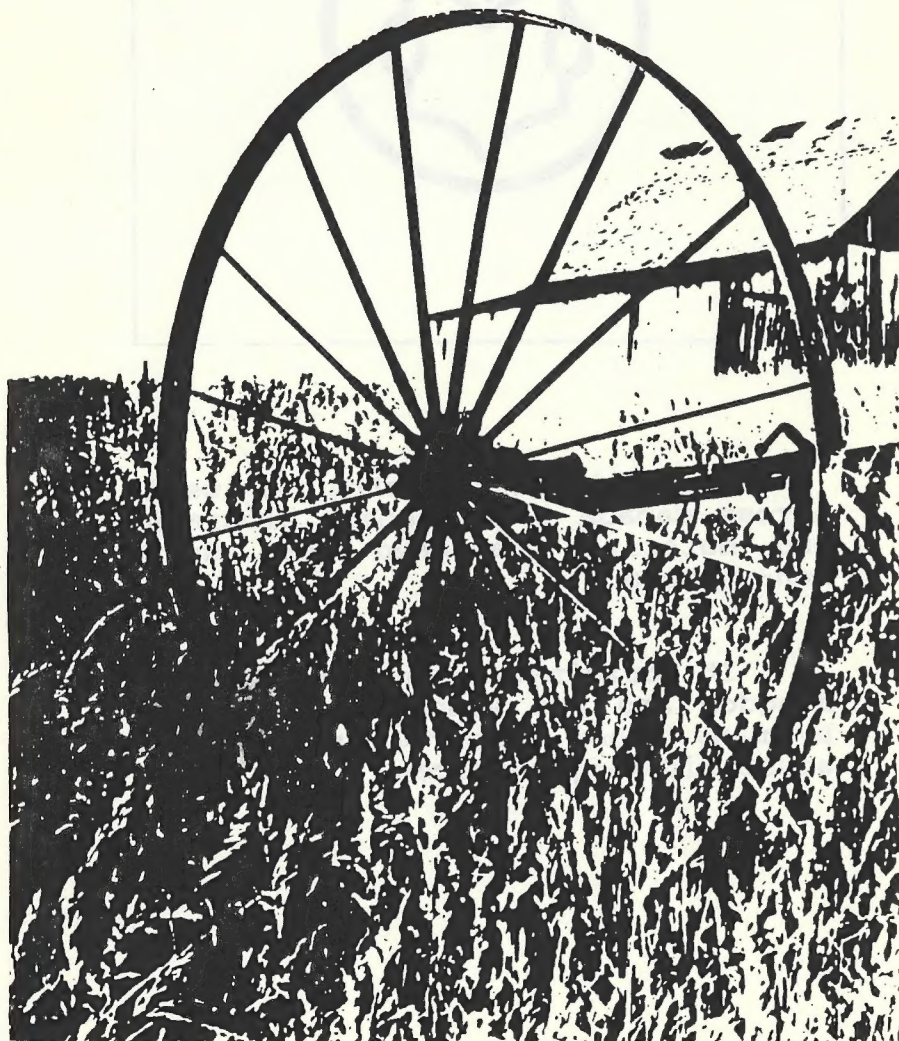
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This literacy symbol is used across Canada to designate programs and materials designed for adult non-readers.

It originated in the United Kingdom and has since been adopted by many other countries which have adult literacy services.



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